



Postal Registration No. N. E.—771/2006-2008

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PART-III
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road,
New Delhi—110001
Dated the 21st February, 2008

2nd Phalguna, 1929 (Saka)

NOTIFICATION

The 24th February, 2008.

ORDER

No.3/4/ID/2008/J.S.II/(MEG).—1. Whereas, Section 61 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that with a view to preventing impersonation of electors, so as to make the right of genuine electors to vote under section 62 of that Act more effective, provisions may be made by rules under that Act for use of Electoral Identity Cards for electors as the means of establishing their identity at the time of polling; and

2. Whereas, Rule 28 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, empowers the Election Commission to direct, with a view to preventing impersonation of electors and facilitating their identification at the time of poll, the issue of Electoral Identity Cards to electors bearing their photographs at State cost; and

3. Whereas, Rules 49H (3) and 49K (2) (b) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, stipulate that where the electors of a constituency have been supplied with Electoral Identity Cards under the said provisions of Rule 28 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the electors shall produce their Electoral Identity Cards at the polling station and failure or refusal on their part to produce those Electoral Identity Cards may result in the denial of permission to vote; and

4. Whereas, a combined and harmonious reading of the aforesaid provisions of the said Act and the Rules, makes it clear that although the right to vote, arises by the existence of the name in the electoral roll, it is also dependent upon the use of the Electoral Identity Card, where provided by the Election Commission at State cost, and that both are to be used together; and

5. Whereas, the Election Commission made an Order on the 28th August, 1993, directing the issue of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to all electors, according to a time bound programme; and

6. Whereas, the Commission has taken note of the fact that over the last few years since the implementation of the programme of issue of EPICs was taken up, the election machinery of Meghalaya, have issued these cards to a substantially high number of electors and made all possible efforts, by way of repeated rounds of the constituencies and areas, with a view to issuing cards to the left-out electors; and

7. Whereas, electoral rolls containing photographs of the electors have been prepared and issued in Meghalaya; and

8. Whereas, at the general election to the Legislative Assembly of Haryana held in January - March, 2000, and at all general and bye-elections held since then, the Commission had directed that all electors who were issued with EPICs should produce those cards to exercise their franchise at the said elections, and that it would permit the odd electors who have not obtained, their EPICs to vote at the said elections, provided their identity is otherwise established by production of one of the alternative documents prescribed by the Commission.

9. Now, therefore, after taking into account all relevant factors and the legal and factual position, the Election Commission hereby directs that all electors in each of the 60 Assembly Constituencies in the current general election to the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya, notified on 8th February, 2008, shall produce their EPICs for establishing their identity before casting their votes. If any elector fails to produce his/her, EPIC, the photograph on the electoral roll shall be taken into consideration for establishing his/her identity. If, in the case of any such elector, the identity cannot be established by means of the photograph in electoral roll, on account of the photograph being not available in the roll or not being clear, such electors shall have to produce any of the following alternative photo documents for establishing their identity:-

- (i) Passports,
- (ii) Driving Licences,
- (iii) Income Tax Identity (PAN) Cards,
- (iv) Service Identity Cards having photograph, issued to its employees by State/Central Government Offices, Public Sector Undertakings.
- (v) Passbooks containing Photographs for Accounts opened upto 31st December, 2007 in Public Sector Banks/Post Offices.
- (vi) Freedom Fighter Identity Card with photograph.
- (vii) Pension payment order with photograph issued upto 31st December, 2007.
- (viii) Certificate of physical handicap having photograph issued by the Competent Authority, issued upto 31st December, 2007.
- (ix) Student Identity Cards having photograph, issued by University/College, upto 31st December, 2007.
- (x) Arms Licence having photograph, issued upto 31st December, 2007.
- (xi) Job Cards with photograph issued under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, issued upto 31st December, 2007.

By Order

(K. F. WILFRED)
SECRETARY